

# TUG HILL LITERARY REVIEW AUTUMN 2005

## “GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN” TUG HILL EPITAPHS AND EULOGIES



**Grave of General Caleb Carr, War of 1812 Veteran,  
Williamstown Cemetery**



*“OUR PARENTS ARE AT REST”*

**PETER AND RUBY ANN (BLASIER) CLEMENS OBELISK,  
PEKEY CEMETERY, NORTH OSCEOLA, LEWIS COUNTY,  
NEW YORK**

## *Beyond the Stones, Dugway Cemetery Records*

By Connie Skilinskis (2003) Reviewed by Shawn Doyle

In the late 1990s I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Connie Mason Skilinskis of the town of Scriba in Oswego County. Connie was researching her roots, and we soon found we were linked through the Tilton family of Washington County, New York. Later, we found that most of our local relations were buried in Maplelawn cemetery in the Albion Township Hamlet of Dugway.

Connie had many closer connections with Maplelawn than I, many of her closest relations lie buried there. I became a member of the Maplelawn cemetery board in 1994, and in late 1998 Connie approached me about viewing our records. After seeing Connie's interest in getting them all organized, we made copies of many of the early burial records for her. In 2002 Connie began assembling an actual book as part of the Oswego County Cemetery Census Project. That book has become for many of us, an indispensable record of not just the engravings, but a record of the people and families that lie at rest in Maplelawn.

Connie sent away to libraries across the state to gain records, on many little known families to augment our records. She also spent countless hours peering through microfilm of old issues of the *Mexico Independent*, *Parish Mirror* and the *Pulaski Democrat*. The result is an easy to follow, alphabetical book listing all the burials that records can be found of in our little cemetery.

The back section fleshes out many of these dates, with death notices and full obituaries that tell more about the people listed. In some cases, there are photos.

This book, Connie's first, was also her last. In 2005 she lost her long battle with emphysema. Before her death, Connie left Half-Shire Historical Society an original copy of *Beyond the Stones* to reprint in the hope it will assist others in their research.

Reprints of this spiral bound 100 page book are available for \$20, \$22 by mail through Half-Shire.

***Half-Shire Historical Society extends its sincere thanks to former Osceolan, John Stedman of Woodbridge, Virginia for underwriting the costs of our publication and mailing.***

## Tug Hill Literary Review

### Autumn 2005

## "Gone but not forgotten"

### Tug Hill Epitaphs and Eulogies

*"A collection of original poetry, prose and book reviews by writers past and present from the greater Tug Hill Region"*

*Compiled and edited by*

Shawn Doyle, George Widrig and Debbie Quick

A joint project by **Half-Shire Historical Society** and  
**The Historical Association of South Jefferson**

### Volume I, Number III

#### ~Epitaphs~

**Oneida County**....Ava, Boonville, Remson

**Oswego County** Albion, Amboy, Boylston, Orwell, Redfield, Richland, Sandy Creek, Williamstown

**Jefferson County**...Adams, Ellisburg, Lorraine, Rodman

**Lewis County**...Croghan, Diana, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola

#### ~Eulogies~

On the death of Josia Davis of Montague

On the death of Lucinda Osbourn of New Breman

On the death of John Brown III of Richland

On the death of Herm Mattison of Redfield

On the death of Edward Samson of Boylston

#### ~Book Reviews~

*Beyond the Stones, Dugway Cemetery Records* by Connie Skilinskis  
Reviewed by Shawn Doyle .....

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We continue to be very pleased with the feedback from the memberships of both our organizations, and the general public to our *Literary Review*. This number arrives a bit later than expected, due principally to other projects that have occupied the attention of the staff.

In this issue we have selected to print some epitaphs and eulogies written following the deaths of early settlers across Tug Hill. Both of these forms of memorial have changed greatly in our present age, and it is educational to look back a hundred years or more at this art form.

Epitaphs have been found on grave markers and memorials since ancient times. The inscriptions on the Great Pyramids of Egypt are in fact, some of the worlds earliest, and most notable forms of epitaph. In the "New World, many" New England grave markers bear simple one-line epitaphs that often quote a biblical verse or, on occasion, reveal something more personal about the grave occupant.

As pioneers moved west into the wilderness of New York's Tug Hill Plateau, the tradition of epitaphs on grave stones followed. Many of the earliest marble and slate markers found in our rural cemeteries bear evidence of epitaphs both long and short. Sadly, many of these verses are lost or are becoming harder to read due to damage from the elements, vandalism and age.

When we set out to gather epitaphs we ambitiously hoped to cover Tug Hill from Lowville to Pulaski, Watertown to Camden. We soon realized that this would not only take a great deal of time, but also many pages. In the following pages we have elected to present some of the most interesting and varied ones found. We will save others for a later issue.

In adding eulogies to our issue we have a more permanent and accessible product. The nineteenth and early twentieth century newspapers cataloged on microfilm or in public and private collections are full of eulogies printed for various people. Here, we had our hands full about what to use, and how to select. Because eulogies often are longer, we have selected a shorter list, again taking geography and diversity of background into consideration.

We hope our readers appreciate our selections, and perhaps take some time to search out epitaphs and eulogies written about their own families and community members.

(Please note: We have carefully transcribed the exact spellings and punctuation from each inscription and eulogy. In cases where the meaning needed to be clarified (a Remson stone) we have added information in parenthesis)

### **Sandy Creek News correspondent, on the death of Herman Mattison (1929-1983), game warden from Redfield Township:**

*"We lost one of the tall trees on Tug Hill when Herm Mattison, Redfield died with little notice.....brook trout streams won't be the same without him"*

### **Harold E. Samson on the death of his father, Edward Samson on September 25, 1937**

*"He is not gone from the old home! We feel his presence all around; 'Twas not his spirit, but his clay, we placed in the embracing ground.*

*The fields wherein he used to toil, the homely paths that knew his tread, the garden where he tilled the soil, they know that he will ne'er be dead.*

*The tree that twenty years ago, he planted there beside the lawn, now stands, a living monument, to prove his spirit is not gone.*

*The honest tools that bear the mark, deep-worn by his Hard-laboring hands, most eloquently testify how well they answered his demands.*

*The chair in which he used to sit; the hasp he placed upon the door; A hundred things he made and did, remind us of him evermore.*

*He is not gone; he still is near, hidden perhaps, behind a veil, that we are powerless to lift, however filmy or how frail.*

*Just as the sun's rays, though concealed, by misty shrouds that cloaks their birth, still warm, by their reflected glow,*

*The very heart-strings of the earth.*

*So shall our own hearts be enriched, as long as the day and night endure, and brightened by his memory, and time eludes eternity.*

*And then, upon some future day, when time and distance are no more, a hand will cast the veil aside, and we shall see him as before.*

~

We hope you have enjoyed our third issue! We are looking forward to receiving some more current poetry to go along with our growing collection of older works. The theme of the winter issue will be "Winter's Arrival on Tug Hill", and will center on poetry and prose discussing snow, and isolation on Tug Hill.

Currently, this little tome is sent out as a supplement to the HASJEFF and Half-Shire newsletters. At some point we may make this a stand alone periodical. Submissions can be sent to: **Tug Hill Literary Review, c/o Half-Shire P.O. Box 73, Richland, New York 13144-0073**, E-mail can be sent to: [Halfshire@hotmail.com](mailto:Halfshire@hotmail.com) Please send along your name, source of work (if not your own) and your complete contact information.

## ~Eulogies~

### **Mrs. W. A. Glazier of Barnes Corners, Lewis County, on the death of Josia Davis at age 94 on December 26, 1934**

(Taken from an article in the Lowville Journal-Republican, January 3, 1935)

*"....Due to the raging blizzard of last Wednesday, cars were unable to travel and those attending the funeral of Josia Davis, at the home of his daughter Mrs. Emma Kellogg, in the afternoon, were obliged to remain there over night, and internment was made the next day after the roads were cleared. Mr. Davis, 94 years, was our oldest resident and had led a very active life up to his last illness. After one attains such a golden age it would seem selfish to mourn or wish them to remain longer to suffer earthly tribulations, when death alleviates all, to sleep and rest in peace forever more....."*

### **Mrs. C. A. Garnsey of New Bremen, Lewis County, on the death of Mrs. Lucinda M. Osborn, in New Bremen, on Dec. 9, 1918, age 72**

(Taken from an article in the Lowville Journal-Republican of December 12, 1918)

*"She was a kind and affectionate mother, ever ready and willing to sacrifice her own comforts and happiness for the sake of her children, and to help the poor and needy, rest in peace dear mother, after toll of years. No more sorrow or crying God shall wipe away all tears. Safe and happy in that realm above free from all trouble and care; May we live right while here below, hoping to meet you there."*

### **Mrs. Charles E. Noyes of Richland, on the death of John G. Brown April 10, 1905, aged 1 year, 3 months**

*"Take him! Our precious little one!  
We will in meek submission yield.*

*Knowing thy unbounded love, and tender miracles shield  
We placed this little form of clay in yonder far-off mound,  
And pillowed it with flowers so white But the spirit has fled—an angel  
bright, and is wearing a starry crown.*

*He was to us a bright—and morning star, a flower, shedding its rich  
perfume; a jewel sent to us from afar—a priceless treasure we called our  
own. Yet lent to us by God alone.*

*The infinite love of our God has taken him home to himself above.  
We will humbly bow 'neath thee chastening rod and earnestly thank him  
for his omnipotent love.*

*The Master never would send us the darkness if he felt we could not  
bear the light. And we would not cling to his guiding hand if the way  
were always bright.*

*Then nestle our hands in the Fathers, and sing, if we can, as we go;  
Our song may cheer someone behind us, whose courage may ebb  
sinking low"*



**Williamstown's Fairview Cemetery presents a neat and orderly appearance looking towards State Rte. 13. Many of the stones have suffered greatly due to exposure, elements and time.**



**(Left) Half-Shire Trustee and Town of Sandy Creek Supervisor, Margaret Hollis Kastler, lifts up a fallen stone in Orwell's Castor Cemetery on Rte. 22 just north of the Hamlet of Orwell.**

**The stone marks the grave of Margaret's ancestor Betsy Hollis (wife of Joshua). This cemetery is in need of some repair.**

# ~Oneida County Epitaphs~

## Foster Town Cemetery, town of Ava

Nat Foster (1766-1840)

*"Pioneer hunter and trapper in the Adirondacks, son of Nat Foster, a Revolutionary War soldier"*

## Thornton Cemetery, Town of Ava

Polly Cronk, June 18, 1885 age 79 yr. 8 mos.

*"Wife of Hiram Cronk, the last survivor of the War of 1812"*

## Joislin Cemetery, Town of Boonville (Private)

Georgie, son of Stephen & Susan Klinck

Died August 9, 1863, aged 7 mo. 16 days

*"Dearest Georgie thou hast left us, here thy loss we deeply feel  
But 'tis God that must bereft us, he can all our sorrows heal"*

## Cape Bont Cemetery, Remsen

Elizabeth, wife of Evan Pugh December 15, 1842, age 67 yrs.

*"Native of Trfeaglwy, Montgomeryshire, N. Wales, emigrated to America in 1817"*

## Pen Y Caerau Cemetery, Remsen

Griffith Prichard

*"Was accidentally drowned in W.(est) C.(anada) Creek near Prospect,  
July 8, 1852, age 19yrs."*



(Above) Westdale Cemetery, Camden Township, Oneida County, New York  
c.1890, (courtesy of Sue Archibee Hemmings)



Mary Elizabeth Nash,  
Wife of Frank Nash. Grave stone in Salmon River Cemetery,  
Osceola (inscription on opposite page)  
(Members of the Gove family are among the descendants of  
the Nash family, who settled Osceola early on.  
This stone has deep inscriptions, and has stood the test of  
time and elements well.)

**Brookside cemetery, Hamlet & Town of Richland**

Nila Blanch Taplin 1902-1913

*"Little Nina has passed away, they will see her face no more. She has gone to be with Jesus, over on the other shore"*

**Noyes Cemetery, Town of Sandy Creek (2)**

Mary, the loved daughter of William & Elica Baker

Died at Chaumont, NY Sept. 29, 1864

AE. 11years, 3 mo. & 17 days

*"She's gone to rest, our Mary dear!*

*Then why should we complain!*

*Or grieve, or sigh, or shed a tear*

*She's free from every pain."*

Mary J. Allen

Wife of George H. Barlow,

Died Aug. 19, 1858 AE. 24 years.

*"How loved how valued once, avails thee not*

*To whom related, or by when begot*

*A heap of dust alone remains of thee*

*Tis all thou art, and all the great shall be."*

**Winsor-Degraff Cemetery, Town of Williamstown**

At Rest Mary B. wife of Richard S. Winsor

Died Aug. 16, 1879 AE 82 yrs, 6 m's, & 4 D's.

*"The long, long race of life is o'er,*

*Thy victory is won,*

*A home on Jordon's pearly shore,*

*A new life just begun.*

*A home of happiness and bliss,*

*No suffering there, no pain,*

*And although thy presence we sadly miss,*

*We'd not recall thee again."*

**~Jefferson County Epitaphs~**

**Rural Cemetery, Town of Adams (2)**

Alexander Salisbury

Died March 22, 1801, age 24 years

*"He moved to Adams in 1901 and in attempting to cross the creek in a scow was borne over the dam and drowned. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> death in town."*

**Brewster Settlement, Town of Ellisburg**

In Memory of Lydia, daughter of Elder Timothy & Temperance Brewster

Died Ap'l 16, 1824 AE 20 y's 1 M 24 D

*"The kindest of daughters, a friend that was true*

*Beloved by many (if hated) by few"*

**Rural Cemetery, Town of Lorraine (3)**

Rinaldo Jay Abbey

*"Was killed by the accidental discharge of a block of iron on the morning of July 5, 1855 aged 12 years, 1 mos. In the midst of life we are in death."*

Eli S. Gillette

*"Fell pierced through the head by a rebel ball April 2, 1865 while bravely struggling with his comrades of Co. C, 186<sup>th</sup> Regiment NYV in the capture of Fort Monroe, one of the strongest rebel works in front of Petersburg, VA."*

Elihu Gillette

Died March 3, 1882 aged 68 years, 9 mos.

*"Finished the toil, the rest begun, the battle fought, the victory won"*

**Clark Cemetery, Tift Farm, Town of Lorraine**

Philena J. Sweetman

Died August 17, 1834 aged 7 years, 8 mos.

*"Thy lovely bird so young and fair called home by early doom, just came to love, how sweet a flower in Paradise blooms."*

**Gulf Stream Cemetery, Rodman**

John B. Isham

Died September 27, 1850 aged 49 years.

*"He was found dead on the road from Rutland to Rodman near Whitesville, killed by being thrown from his carriage off the embankment of a bridge-the horse through freight backing off."*

**Jerusalem Cemetery, Town of Rodman**

Samantha M. Wheeler

Died March 23, 1847 age 24 years

*"Affliction sore long time I have, Physician skill in vain,  
Till God did send death as a friend, to alleviate my pain."*

## ~Lewis County Epitaphs~

### **St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort, Town of Croghan**

Gegilia F. Phillips

1866- Feb 28, 1905 AE 39

"We miss thee from thy place, a shadow over our life is cast; we miss the sunshine of thy face"

### **Henry Road Cemetery, Town of Diana**

John M. Nichols

April 15, 1884 ae 68 yrs. 3 ms. 12 ds.

"He is happy now eternally, his joys are all complete  
With angels he is bouncing, around the Saviors feet."

### **Gardner's Corners Cemetery, Town of Montague**

George J. Neibergall

Co. H 15<sup>th</sup> Reg't NY Vol

"Fell in defense of his country and was buried at Petersburg, VA."

### **Maple Ridge Cemetery, Martinsburg**

Heloise Chaufy

Wife of John (no date, John died at 77 in 1903)

"As you are now so once was I, as I am now you soon will be, as all pass  
by-pray for me"

### **Gregory Road Cemetery, Town of Osceola**

Thomas Hulbert February 28, 1873 ae 69

"There is rest for the weary"

Rebecca, wife of Thomas July 30, 1874 ae 67

"A time to die"

### **Salmon River Cemetery, Town of Osceola**

Mary Elizabeth

Wife of Frank Nash

October 25, 1882 ae 55 yrs. 5 mo. 7 d.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

## ~Oswego County Epitaphs~

### **Salmon River Cemetery of Pineville, Town of Albion**

Byron R. Seamons died Oct 22, 1861 AE 25 y'rs & 1 mo

A volunteer in the 50th Reg't.

*"Farewell to the patriot brother and friend, Deep sorrow is struggling with  
joy in each heart*

### **Five Corner's Cemetery, Town of Amboy**

In Memory of Wanton Green

Who died March 15, 1833 AE 59 yr 10 mo 14 da

*"Farewell my wife and children dear I leave you all behind,  
The joys of life I leave you myself to God resign."*

### **Phelps Cemetery, Town of Boylston**

Albert F. Eggleston

Born Apr. 13, 1856 Died Nov. 25 1886

*"In sorrow he has left us, his sad fate to mourn.*

*The cars ran over his beautiful form, in pieces he was torn."*

### **Pekin Cemetery, Town of Orwell**

Daty West, son of A. D. & M. West

Died April 12, 1863 aged 1 yr 8 mo

*"He was a bud too fair for time*

*He would not blossom here*

*Too tender for this chilling clime,*

*It sought another sphere."*

### **Myrtle Cemetery, Town of Redfield**

James Glass died Feb 19, 1853 in the 28<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

He was a native of Ireland

*"How short the race our friend has run, cut down in all his bloom.*

*The course but yesterday begun, now finished in the tomb.*

*Thou joyous youth bethink how soon, thy years may end their flight  
Long, long before life's brilliant noon, may come deaths gloomy night"*

### **McClelland Cemetery, Town of Richland**

Frankie A. daughter of P & S Hendrickson

Died May 12, 1851 age 14 years 2 months

*"Sleep on little Frankie and take thy rest. God hath called thee, he  
thought it best."*